

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-26 and 51-55 are pending in the present application. Claim 55 has been amended. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

I. Claim Rejections - 35 USC §102

Claims 2-11, 13-15, 17-26 and 55 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,917,972 to Davies. The Office Action alleges that the device of Fig. 1 of Davies anticipates the presently claimed invention. Applicant respectfully disagrees for reasons set forth below. The Davies device is directed to an optical amplifier having an elongate waveguide region that has an input and an output that are parallel with one another. In the Davies device, the light entering through the input (1) is in the same general direction as the light that leaves the output (3). The device of Davies does not turn the light around a bend; the input and output of the Davies device are parallel to one another.

In stark contrast, the presently claimed invention is directed to a device for efficiently deflecting light from an optical fiber around a bend. As recited by the claims and as described throughout the specification, the presently claimed invention is directed to an apparatus for efficiently deflecting light, for example, from an optical fiber around a bend. For example, on page one, the specification provides that "the present invention relates to a device that changes the direction of a beam of light in a non-imaging application (i.e., an application in which the primary concern is to transport optical energy efficiently, with minimal loss of brightness, rather than to preserve an image.)" To that effect, the present specification teaches a suite of such optical corner-turning devices. For example, see item 30 of Figs. 1B, 1C and 1D. Likewise see Figs. 1E, 1F, 1G, 1H, 1I, 1J, and Figs. 2-6. In all these figures the input and output ports are nonparallel and angled with respect to one-another. In order to further the prosecution of the application, Applicant has amended claim 55, without acquiescence and prejudice as set forth above. Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 55 overcomes the section 102(e) rejection because the Davies reference does not disclose all the elements of the amended claim,

and it is thus allowable. Furthermore, considering that claims 2-11, 13-15, and 17-26 include all the features and limitations of amended independent claim 55 from which they depend, these claims are patentable to the same extent that amended independent claim 55 is patentable and thus are also allowable.

II. Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

Claims 12, 16 and 51-54 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Davies in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,727,108 to Hed. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome in view of the currently amended claim 55. As set forth above, the Davies reference does not disclose all the elements of the amended claim, and so claim 55 is allowable. Furthermore, Applicant respectfully submits that the deficiencies of the primary reference (Davies) are not overcome by the Hed reference, and therefore claim 55 is allowable over Davies in view of Hed. And considering that claims 12, 16 and 51-54 include all the features and limitations of amended independent claim 55 from which they depend, these claims are patentable to the same extent that amended independent claim 55 is patentable and thus are also allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

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PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,



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